

Transfer and Articulation Issues and Strategies

June 2002

Background

At the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) meeting on March 27, members heard about three key transfer and articulation issues that both the HECB and State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) staff agree are important to address:

- (a) enrollment constraints at public baccalaureate institutions that threaten placement of transfer students;
- (b) inadequate student coursework at community and technical colleges for particular majors at the four-year institutions; and
- (c) insufficient pathways for professional/technical students to complete their bachelor's degrees.

HECB staff also identified a fourth issue — many seemingly well-prepared community college students do not transfer to four-year institutions. The Board directed staff to continue to work more comprehensively and aggressively with the higher education institutions and stakeholders to determine the strategies that will make transfer work better as a system for students.

Update on Ongoing Activities

HECB staff continue to identify the most pressing transfer and articulation priorities from a statewide perspective. Staff are to convene a second meeting of the “Transfer and Articulation Action Group” on June 5, 2002. (This document was written before the meeting occurred.) The agenda features brief presentations followed by group discussions of the key issues. HECB staff will facilitate the group discussions to focus on the state's role and interest in each issue. The group will discuss which issues affect the greatest number of students and which solutions have the broadest potential reach.

The group also plans to discuss the status of the Bachelor of Applied Science degree. This will include a discussion of the implications of the decision by the University of Washington to withdraw its proposal to develop a bachelor's degree in applied technology at its Tacoma campus in collaboration with a number of community and technical colleges.

Board Discussion on June 11

At the June 11 Board meeting, HECB staff will discuss with the Board the outcomes of the June 5 Action Group meeting. Staff will present the top three issues that have the most far-reaching consequences, and will ask Board members for guidance on next steps.